Speedlang Challenge 4

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Due: Midnight GMT, March 3, 2019

You're out trekking in New Guinea and come across a previously uncontacted village. You attempt to greet them in your rudimentary Tok Pisin, but seeing as they're uncontacted and all, they don't understand. They speak back at you in their native language. Dutiful linguist that you are, you whip out your recorder and analyze it. You work hard to learn the language, and everyone living in the town helps you. With permission from the village's matriarch, you write and publish a grammar, which you can add to the lovely list of Papuan grammars over in the Grammar Pile.

Phonology

Your language's phonology must include:

- A three-way phonation contrast somewhere

- Either three or fewer phonemic vowels or seven or more

- At least one archiphoneme whose realization is specified by its environment

Grammar

Your language's grammar must:

- Have productive reduplication either partial or full

- Other than reduplication, lack concatenative morphology. Isolating is fine as is inflection/derivation using ablaut, suprafixes, disfixes etc.

- Make an animacy distinction somewhere

- Lack at least one part of speech that English has (or systematically divide the parts of speech in a meaningfully different way)

Tasks

1. Document and showcase your language, explaining and demonstrating how it meets all of the elements of the challenge.

2. Translate and gloss five "syntax test" sentences. You can get these by asking Leo "=stest".

3. In your language, write what the members of the tribe said to you when you first met.

4. (Optional) Write part of your conversation with the village's matriarch after learning the language. Has the register of speech changed? Does your language have any conventions around politeness?

5. (Optional) Invent and write a recipe in your language for a dish from your conculture's cuisine.